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Written statement* submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Arresting Al-Qods Children

There are about 300 Palestinian children – under 18 years old- in the occupation jails. These children are from various cities and villages of the West Bank and Al-Qods. Al-Qods children are 52, 17% of the total average of the arrested children. In 2013 there were only 23 Palestinian children in their jails.

From Al-Qods children, 28 are sentences, and 24 are detained. According the Palestinian Prisoner Club, 8 Al-Qods children are subject to arrest daily, most of them are underage. Sometimes, more than 60 Al-Qods children are arrested, investigated for hours or days, and then released.

It is observed that arresting Al-Qods children increases. In Al-Qods city, 380 children were Arrested in 2013, but in 2014, 6000 children under 18 were arrested. Last January, 2015, the occupation arrested 160 Al-Qods children, 40% of them are underage, and according to some declaration and statements 25% are driven away from their homes into tohers either inside or outside Al-Qods.

The liberated and prisoners Staff said the deported Al-Qods children in 2014 were 37, while 253 were under arrest home residence. The total rate of the arrested Al-Qods children compared with the total number of all arrested children was 53 %.

The Staff considered that the arrest home residence makes the child's parents jailers, so it is a punishment for the whole family. The occupation install a warning instrument around the child's leg to identify his place, and if he commits with the punishment- and of curse under the monitor of the Israeli police and security systems.

This Staff added that the Israeli measures impose on the child's parents to sign a pledge of not breaking any decree. If any break of the laws happens, the parents pay a financial bail and may be arrested. Also the child will be arrested again and driven away with one of his parents.

The youngest arrested child from Al-Qods is Obaida Mohsen Ayesh, 7 years old. Also, Mohammad Abdel-Hay Al-Zir, 13 years old from Al-Qods is another child who suffers from cardian illness, and considered a handicapped one. A unique incident happened when atn occupation force attacked the home of the child Hamza Hazem Zaidani in Selwan. But after discovering he is only two years old, they left him.

The occupation forces use the excessive force during the arrests, so a lot of armored soldiers attack aggressively the homes and kidnap the child from his parents' cuddle. Feeling insecure, the child is savagely put in a military jeep.

Zeyad Al-Hammori describes the international position toward Al-Qods children with cowardice since there is no real will to deter the occupation oppress Al-Qods children. He said the main aim of arresting Al-Qods children is creating a terrible atmosphere for the children, and then distort their thinking, belonging, and even their psychology.

Timing these arrests are thoughtful and systematic not by chance to influence the child's psychology. He considers that threatening the children by driving them away from their families and taking those to other Jewish families dangerously threaten the children.

Al-Hammori assures that the way of arrest is illegal for the Israeli laws which ask for treating the children well since this way which happens at midnight is really full of terror especially they deprive the parents or the attorneys to accompany the children who are accompanied by only military vehicles.

The headmaster of the inquiring program in International Movement for Defending the Children , Ayda Abu Ktaisha, shows the multiple suffering of Al-Qods children since the ways of arresting them deprives them from all rights that other arrested children enjoy. These rights are represented in timing the arrest, accompanying the parents with them, and getting confession by force; Al-Qods children lack these rights.

He added: despite the children of the West Bank are handled by military orders, and the Al-Qods children are handled by civil laws, practically there is no difference between both.

He clarified in a declaration to channel "Hona Al-Qods" that the international law allows arresting the children as the last choice and for a short duration, but Al-Qods children suffer from harder conditions represented in arrest home residence and high financial bail.

Some specialists pointed Al-Qods children are facing a threatening future when the occupation court adds a black point in their security report, that matter that threatens their future since it deprives them from renewing his ID after 10 years. The Ministry of Interior asks for a good behavior certificate from the occupation police. If there is any article that opposes the Ministry's demand, he can't get the ID. The occupation is establishing a future malicious idea which by targeting the Al-Qods children, Al-Qods will be empty from its real citizens.

Increaseof targeting the Al-Qods child
Arresting the Al-Qods children has increased lately especially after the uprising caused by burning Al-Qods child Mohammad Abu Khdair, so the children are strictly handled; this what the Israeli press declared. This press demanded the Israeli attorney general prosecution to punish so strictly the Al-Qods children, so throwing stones at the Israeli Vehicles may reduce. This press also asked for lengthening the period of the children's arrest till the end of all legal procedures which may last for a year.

The sanction law which contains 275 articles has been edited and modified for the purpose of have stricter laws against stone throwers and convict them without any need to confirm any harm done by the child. So, the edited law will permit the occupation to arrest underage children from 10 to 20 years, and this happens if any cop claims of seeing a child throwing stones on the vehicles of settlers and soldiers. This law often targets the Al-Qods children

The increasing arrests for Al-Qods children targets to destroy the children's psychology, so the child changes from a striving child defending his rights and homeland into another one far from those things. However, the occupation is exaggerating in hurting the arrested Al-Qods children and it deliberately terrifies and oppresses them in the presence of their parents and in addition to financial bails, it imposes on them high sentences.

Besides the occupation arrest, the settlers kidnap Al-Qods children as what happened with the Al-Qods child "Mohammad Saed Awaita" who was kidnapped by Arabists (settlers claiming to be Arab) in 26-1-2015. While he was playing ball, he was beaten, and then arrested; taking into consideration he suffers from diabetes.

The Al-Qods child "Ahmad Jehad Awaita, 15 years old, remembers the moment of attacking his home by a special Israeli force who invaded them offensively at dawn while they were sleeping. He remembers when he was arrested and taken to Al-Maskobeye where he was put in isolation. After three hours, he was investigated for 2.5 hrs.

He describes the time he spent in Al-Maskobeye: "I was blackmailed when I was accused of doing things I had never heard about. It is difficult describe these hard moments.

He adds: "I felt with stress and fear since it was my first experience of arrest. The hardest moment is watching my mom crying and shedding tears." After hours of investigation in the absence of his family - as the Israeli law declares- Ahmad was released after paying 1000 Shekel , and without going to the court.

To go on having stricter decree for the Al-Qods children, the general attorney prosecution demanded to imprison the child "Jamal Imad Al-Zaatari"-15 years old, for not less than 20 months due to throwing stones. the child "Al-Zaatari" was taken to the reconciliation court, then to the central court in Al-Qods. His dad was banned several times to visit for unknown reasons.

In an incident that showed the lies of occupation claims, the judge of the reconciliation court in 16-3-2015 issued a decision to release immediately a boy from Al-Qods "Laith Jamal Hosaini" 15 years old, after showing his guilessness. After 6 months of investigation, the general attorney and police officers were known of their lying. After spending 6 months in the jail, the child "Hosainin" who had been arrested in 13-9 – 2014 while passing Sheefat barricade, was beaten and hit by the soldiers, and was accused of throwing stones.

Al-Maskobeya Jail:
Most arrested children from Al-Qods Are taken directly to Al-Maskobeya Jail in Al-Qods where investigation takes place in hard conditions, and of course without allowing their parents or attorney to attend. The occupation threatens this young child and applies all kinds of oppression to confess the accusation which is mainly throwing stones one the vehicles of the settlers and army.

Al-Maskobeya Jail in Al-Qods is considered the worst jail in "Israel", and the prisoners call it "The Jail of Death". Most of its visitors are from Al-Qods. The state Israel arrests and detains the children in hard conditions. They get the same bad treatment as the other Palestinian prisoners.

Since the beginning of the second Itifada (uprising), the occupation state adopts a systematic policy towards the arrested children of Al-Qods as making long and complex judgments as well as hard investigation in in addition to the lack education and health care.

The occupation government adopts a discriminating policy against the Palestinian children since it considers the Israeli child is the one who hasn't reached 18, while the Palestinian child is the one who hasn't reached 16, and this opposes to the occupation commitment to supply suitable judicial guarantee. This policy has to guarantee judgment according to the child right agreements and the human international law. The occupation really deals with the Palestinian children differently according to a special judicial system looks like the military order 132 which permits for the occupation authorities to arrest the children under 12. There are many prisoner children that have had whole life sentence.

In 2007, a deputation from n Israeli military prosecution, Al_Qods Brigade, visited Al-Maskobeye Jail where Al-Qods children are taken, and they expressed their shock due to the hard conditions inside the jail.

The local newspaper "Kol Hazaman" issued in Al-Qods, wrote the members of the deputation sent a report to the minister of the interior security to ensure the dangerous omissions inside the jail that is – as they said- is not suitable to detain a human being.

The deputation members said they felt suffocated and a severe rattles in the winpipe when entering the walls of the jail, and this due to lack of air in the prisoners' rooms. They had impression that the police detain the prisoners in narrow places that lacks the minimum amount of pure air. This harms the prisoners' health.

The deputation met a prisoner that told him: "Wetness in the rooms as well as the heat is high, and my (prisoner) health conditions are aggravating due to the arrest conditions. I lose my conscious twice a day and fall on the ground."